

How do we respectfully listen, when the ideas of others are very different from our own, or they challenge Catholic teaching?

What helps us to listen to others?

*After a period of silence following the discussion:* ask if there is a consensus about anything.... have we identified a way forward for our parish?

*Note taker please record the conclusions. End with the following prayer.*

In all our travelling

**ALL: Lord may your footsteps guide us**

In our journeying to work and returning

**ALL: Lord may your footsteps guide us**

Within our homes and families

**ALL: Lord may your footsteps guide us**

In our leisure time together

**ALL: Lord may your footsteps guide us**

In difficult situations and conflict

**ALL: Lord may your footsteps guide us**

As we stumble on the way

**ALL: Lord may your footsteps guide us**

In the travelling of our faith

**ALL: Lord may your footsteps guide us**

As we place our trust in you

**ALL: Lord may your footsteps guide us**

In all our travelling. Lord,  
may it be your footsteps  
in which we place our feet



**Archdiocese**  
*of* **Glasgow**



**Lenten Meeting One.**

**Temptation.**

**Opening Prayer** *(from Second Vatican Council)*

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.**

**With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.**

**Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Enthroned Scriptures Luke 4:1-13.**

Stilling Exercise.

Slow prayerful reading of the scriptures....  
Silence.....read the scriptures again.....silence....

What struck you? A word?....a verse?.....

A deeper sharing.....silence.....break.

*Slowly & prayerfully the Leader reads and repeats:*

We can be tempted to rely on self on old ways of doing things, on the people its easy to deal with. We are being asked to see the church as companions on a journey, sharing, listening to each other, deciding the way ahead together, with the scriptures as a route map.

What are your initial reactions? In a word or phrase?

*The leader offers the following questions for respectful discussion and listening.*

Do we experience the church as on a journey?

Who have we left behind? Who has walked away?

How can we grow as companions?

How can we re connect with those who have walked on or those who are slowing us down?

Have I had an experience of really being listened to?

In trying to move forward in faith and church how do we know which voices lead us to God and which try to pull us away from Him?

What does the absence of some of the Baptised scream at us?

How do we find speaking up for our own faith?

Do we show an interest in the faith of others?

*After a period of silence following the discussion:* ask if there is a consensus about anything.... have we identified a way forward for our parish?

*Note taker please record the conclusions. End with the following prayer.*

Radiant God, source of light,  
as you surrounded Jesus with your glory,  
so you come to us in penetrating brightness.

You catch us off guard and expose our weakness.

We choose the limelight while you call us to explore the shadows  
and brighten the darkness.

We seek the spectacular while you bind up the broken in countless acts of mercy.

We seek to stay on the mountain or in a comfortable pew while you walk to the valleys of need.

Radiant God,  
fill us with light and courage to carry good news into all the corners of the world and to bring back the joy of your presence.  
***Amen***



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*of* **Glasgow**



**Lenten Meeting Two.**  
**Transfiguration.**

**Opening Prayer** *(from Second Vatican Council)*

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.**

**With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.**

**Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Enthroned Scriptures Luke 9:28-36.**

Stilling Exercise.

Slow prayerful reading of the scriptures....  
Silence.....read the scriptures again.....silence....

What struck you? A word?....a verse?.....

A deeper sharing.....silence.....break.

*Slowly & prayerfully the Leader reads and repeats:*

Moses and Elijah seemed to be at ease chatting with Jesus. Peter opens his mouth and you get the feeling he said the wrong thing.

What are your initial reactions? In a word or phrase?

*The leader offers the following questions for respectful discussion and listening.*

Can you think of a time that talking fixed a problem or made it better?

Have you an experience of saying the wrong thing, that makes you think twice of saying anything?

How can our church speak to the world, today, when it seems no one is listening?

Can we dialogue better with other parishes, other Christian churches, other faith communities?

Are you at ease in your dialogue with God in prayer?

How can we speak up for the voiceless?

Is the church good at speaking up for justice, love and peace?

*After a period of silence following the discussion: ask if there is a consensus about anything.... have we identified a way forward for our parish?*

*Note taker please record the conclusions. End with the following prayer.*

Lord, lift me up for Your blessings today.

I pray that you will anoint me with strength and self care today, tomorrow, and always.

I pray that You will grace me with patience and wisdom.

I pray that You will encourage me throughout the day to take the correct steps to walk proudly, and behave well.

I pray all of these things in Your name.  
Amen.



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Lenten Meeting Three.

Repentance.

**Opening Prayer** *(from Second Vatican Council)*

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.**

**With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.**

**Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

Enthroned Scriptures Luke 13:1-9.

Stilling Exercise.

Slow prayerful reading of the scriptures....

Silence.....read the scriptures again.....silence....

What struck you? A word?....a verse?.....

A deeper sharing.....silence.....break.

*Slowly & prayerfully the Leader reads and repeats:*

We all long to bear fruit in our spiritual lives. We all long  
for fruitful parish communities, vibrant, fulfilling,  
attractive and engaging.

*The leader offers the following questions for respectful  
discussion and listening.*

How can we make our Sunday Mass, “The summit and  
source of our Christian lives” ?

How can we find ways to increase participation, in our  
liturgies?

How does our parish look to outsiders?

Do we journey with other Christian churches, other faith  
communities, or is there still a reticence?

Is there a sense that we journey together as a parish?

Is the parish seen as a static building or the people  
together on a journey to eternity?

How can we become more dynamic?



*After a period of silence following the discussion: ask if there is a consensus about anything.... have we identified a way forward for our parish?*

*Note taker please record the conclusions. End with the following prayer.*

Lord Jesus, you gave us an example for leadership!

You sought counsel from Your Heavenly Father in quiet places where you could hear God's voice.

You gave your disciples and those of us who follow you today an illustration of humility as a leader when you washed the feet of your followers.

Help us, we pray, to follow your example. Let us seek guidance in all things – listening for that "still, small, voice."

Continue to remind us that we are to serve others through your perfect model – seeking God's will in all we do.

Amen.



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Lenten Meeting Four.

Two Sons.

**Opening Prayer** *(from Second Vatican Council)*

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.**

**With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.**

**Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Enthroned Scriptures Luke 15:1-3.11-32.**

Stilling Exercise.

Slow prayerful reading of the scriptures....  
Silence.....read the scriptures again.....silence....

What struck you? A word?....a verse?.....

A deeper sharing.....silence.....break.

*Slowly & prayerfully the Leader reads and repeats:*

The younger son wants to go it alone, then realises he needs others. He didn't have all the answers. The older son remained faithful but really want inclusive nor loving.

What are your initial reactions in a word or phrase?

*The leader offers the following questions for respectful discussion and listening.*

How can we move our parish into a more participative style of making decisions?

Can you share a time when you went your own way and then thought better of it?

Does our church seem to be going its own way without listening to its people?

Can the faithful rise to the challenge to be a more inclusive and loving church?

How do we discern the way forward for the church/parish without just following the ways of the world?

Does the church lead or should the church follow?

How can we form ourselves to be more synodal?



*After a period of silence following the discussion: ask if there is a consensus about anything.... have we identified a way forward for our parish?*

*Note taker please record the conclusions. End with the following prayer.*

Lord,

Even though I know you and accept you as Lord and Saviour, I don't want to fall into a routine. So, I come to you seeking a fresh, new perspective.

Not to throw away past lessons, but for your Spirit to rebuild and breathe new life into my faith.

Show me how to do this. Let me open myself completely to your voice; the voice that tells me God is love and in Christ all things are new.

Renew me, restore me, break me down if needed, then, let me fall in love again, oh Lord, trusting in your promises. Now a bit more mature and solid in the ways of the Master but still with so much to learn.

Let my joy be a deeper joy, one that celebrates and gives thanks.

Let my love be a deeper love, one that receives and gives life.

May it all start and end with my Lord, my God, my Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen



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**Lenten Meeting Five.**

**Accepting others.**

**Opening Prayer** *(from Second Vatican Council)*

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.**

**With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.**

**Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Enthroned Scriptures John 8:1-11.**

Stilling Exercise.

Slow prayerful reading of the scriptures....  
Silence.....read the scriptures again.....silence....

What struck you? A word?....a verse?.....

A deeper sharing.....silence.....break.

*Slowly & prayerfully the Leader reads and repeats:*

Jesus accepts the woman in her sinfulness.

He cautions her to sin no more and calls her to change.

What are your initial reactions? In a word or phrase?

*The leader offers the following questions for respectful  
discussion and listening.*

Do you think people have given up on the church  
because they see it as a club for the holy?

What has caused a drop in Baptisms, Weddings and  
Funerals?

What is the current image of our church in our local  
area?

Do we welcome sinners, are we welcoming, can we cope  
with people at different stages on their journey,  
different levels of commitment?

Do we crush the flickering flame of faith or feed it?

Can we do more to journey together, accepting people  
as they are and not as we would like them to be?

How do we already experience this in our parish family,

What steps is the Spirit asking us to take to change?

